

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for identifying clinical trial candidates, the method
2 comprising the steps of:
 - 3 receiving from a patient clinical data source, patient data including identities of
4 patients;
 - 5 replacing the identities of the patients in the patient data with secure patient
6 codes;
 - 7 forwarding the patient data with secure patient codes to a clinical trial candidate
8 identification service;
 - 9 receiving from the clinical trial candidate identification service a clinical trial
10 candidate proposal including a secure patient code corresponding to a proposed clinical
11 trial candidate;
 - 12 determining an identity of the proposed clinical trial candidate from the secure
13 patient code; and
 - 14 forwarding the identity of the proposed clinical trial candidate to a candidate
15 contact.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the candidate contact is a health care
2 provider of the candidate.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the candidate contact is the proposed
2 clinical trial candidate.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of replacing the identities of
2 the patients in the patient data with secure patient codes comprises encrypting the
3 identities to create secure patient codes, and the step of determining an identity of the
4 proposed clinical trial candidate comprises decrypting the secure patient code
5 corresponding to the proposed clinical trial candidate.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of replacing the identities of
2 the patients in the patient data with secure patient codes comprises replacing the identities
3 with unique codes and maintaining a table correlating the identities with the unique
4 codes, and the step of determining an identity of the proposed clinical trial candidate
5 comprises looking up in the table an identity of a patient corresponding to the secure
6 patient code.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of extracting
2 patient medical information from the patient data received from a patient clinical data
3 source.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of reformatting the
2 patient data received from a patient clinical data source.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the clinical data source is a database
2 containing transactions between health care providers and payers.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the clinical data source is a hospital
2 network.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving from the candidate contact a status of the clinical trial candidate
3 proposal; and
4 forwarding the status to the clinical trial candidate identification service.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the status includes the identity of the
2 proposed candidate, and the method further comprises the step of replacing the identity of
3 the proposed candidate with a secure patient code before forwarding the status to the
4 clinical trial candidate identification service.

1 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving from the clinical trial candidate identification service, descriptive
3 information about a clinical trial of the clinical trial candidate proposal; and
4 forwarding the information to the candidate contact.

1 13. A method for identifying clinical trial candidates, the method
2 comprising the steps of:
3 receiving at least one clinical data record, each said record including clinical data
4 and a secure patient code uniquely identifying the record without revealing an identity of
5 a corresponding patient;
6 receiving a candidate selection criterion for a clinical trial;
7 searching the at least one clinical data record for a matching clinical data record
8 based on the candidate selection criterion; and

9 if a matching clinical data record is found, then forwarding a contact request
10 including at least a secure patient code from the matching clinical data record.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the contact request is forwarded to a
2 trusted entity having an identity of a patient corresponding to the forwarded secure
3 patient code.

1 15. The method of claim 13, wherein the secure patient code is an
2 encrypted identity of a patient.

1 16. The method of claim 13, wherein the secure patient code is a unique
2 code corresponding to an entry in a table accessible to a trusted entity.

1 17. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of receiving
2 descriptive information about the clinical trial, and wherein the contact request includes
3 the descriptive information.

1 18. The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one clinical data record is
2 received from a data exchange service.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the secure patient code
2 corresponding to a matching clinical data record is forwarded to the data exchange
3 service.

1 20. The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one clinical data record is
2 received from an entity controlling a database containing transactions between health
3 care providers and payers.

1 21. The method of claim 13, wherein the secure patient code
2 corresponding to a matching clinical data record is forwarded to an entity controlling a
3 database containing transactions between health care providers and payers.

1 22. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:
2 maintaining records of matching clinical data records; and
3 wherein the step of forwarding a contact request including a secure patient code is
4 performed only if that code has not already been forwarded.

1 23. A method for selecting clinical trial candidates, the method comprising
2 the steps of:
3 periodically receiving clinical data records, each said record including clinical
4 data and a secure patient code uniquely identifying the record without revealing an
5 identity of a corresponding patient;
6 periodically searching the data records to identify records of clinical trial
7 candidates.

1 24. A system for identifying clinical trial candidates, comprising:
2 a data exchange service for receiving patient records from a patient clinical data
3 source and replacing identities of patients in each patient record with a secure patient
4 code;
5 a clinical trial candidate identification service for receiving the patient records
6 with secure patient codes from the data exchange service, and identifying a patient record
7 as a clinical trial candidate.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the clinical trial candidate
2 identification service forwards a secure patient code of the identified patient record to the
3 data exchange service, and the data exchange service determines the identity of the
4 patient for contacting the patient.

1 26. The system of claim 24, wherein the data exchange service receives a
2 status of the clinical trial candidate proposal, replaces an identity of the proposed
3 candidate with a secure patient code; and forwards the status to the clinical trial candidate
4 identification service.

1 27. The system of claim 24, wherein the clinical trial candidate
2 identification service is further for receiving candidate selection criteria for a clinical
3 trial, and the clinical trial candidate identification service identifies a patient record based
4 on the candidate selection criteria.

1 28. The system of claim 24, wherein the data exchange service replaces
2 the identities of the patients with secure patient codes that are encryptions of the identities
3 of the patients.

1 29. The system of claim 24, wherein the data exchange service replaces
2 the identities of the patients with secure patient codes that are unique codes, and the data
3 exchange service further comprises a lookup table correlating each unique code with a
4 patient code.

1 30. The system of claim 24, wherein the data exchange service is further
2 for extracting patient medical information from the patient data received from a patient
3 clinical data source.

1 31. The system of claim 24, wherein the data exchange service is further
2 for reformatting the patient data received from a patient clinical data source.

1 32. The system of claim 24, wherein the clinical data source is a database
2 containing transactions between health care providers and payers.

1 33. The system of claim 24, wherein the clinical data source is a hospital
2 network.